E8C R2800-2 U1 UPDATE SUPPLEMENT

Productivity Perspectives

1986 Edition

UPDATE

AMERICAN PRODUCTIVITY CENTER

The information below updates Figures 16 and 17 (page 11). It is based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data released February 5, 1986.

U.S. still losing its productivity lead

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest figures on U.S. and international gross domestic product (GDP) per employee show our industrial competitors edging closer to the U.S. absolute level of productivity. And the numbers on relative rates of productivity growth show why: other countries are simply improving their productivity faster than we are. The charts below incorporate correct Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development purchasing-power parity figures; a recent comprehensive benchmark revision of the U.S. national accounts that shifts the base period for calculation of constant dollar estimates from 1972 to 1982; and rebenchmarking the Japanese constant price national accounts from 1975 to 1980.

Relative International Productivity Levels
GDP/Employee
(Purchasing-power-parity basis)

Country	Revised 1980	Revised 1984
United States	100.0	100.0
Canada	97.8	98.6
Netherlands	98.4	96.5
France	91.6	94.1
Belgium	92.0	93.3
West Germany	89.1	92.4
Italy	80.5	78.8
United Kingdom	70.8	75.2
Japan	68.4	73.5

International Productivity Growth
GDP/Employee

Country	1980–84 average
Japan	2.8%
United Kingdom	2.6%
West Germany	1.9%
France	1.7%
Belgium	1.4%
Italy	0.5%
Netherlands	0.5%
Canada	1.2%
United States	1.0%

Since these numbers do not yet reflect the terrible U.S. performance in 1985 (zero growth in labor productivity), the gap should narrow further when 1985 statistics are released.